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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

UTAMA, ROBERT J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3715

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/14/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/828,304	Applicant(s) OUCHI, SATORU	
	Examiner ROBERT J. UTAMA	Art Unit 3715	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 17-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 17-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3715

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the application

1. This office action is a response to the amendment and argument filed on 08/08/2008. The current status of the application are as follow claims 1-14, 17-22 are still pending and claim 15-16 are cancelled.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 1-4, 8-11 and 17-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura et al US and in view of Braun 6,300,936.

Claim 1 and 8 and 17: The Nishimura reference discloses a simulator which imparts vibrations to an operator by driving a vibration mechanism in accordance with a generation of a given simulation state (see Abstract) that comprises of: a simulation calculation section which perform simulation calculation to manipulate a simulator object with an operational input from an object operation section during the simulation (see col. 8:50-35); a vibration control section which drives the vibration mechanism on condition that a predetermined occurrence simulation state has occurred during the simulation based on the operational input from the object operation section (see col. 9:20-30); a vibration condition setting section which receives a vibration condition setting which specifies the vibration occurrence simulation

Art Unit: 3715

states, by a separate operation input from an operating section for vibration condition setting (see col. 9:50-56); wherein vibration condition setting section performs condition setting process to receive which includes at least vibration pattern in the vibration occurrence simulation state specified by the vibration condition setting (see col. 9:20-30 and 9:60-65) and wherein the vibration mechanism control section drives the vibration mechanism relation to the set of vibration content, when the vibration occurrence simulation state specified by the vibration condition setting occurs (see col. 12:30-45).

The Nishimura reference fails to provide a teaching of the vibration condition setting set by the operator. However, the Braun reference provides a teaching of a vibration condition setting set by the operator (see col. 17:30-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to include the feature of having a vibration condition setting that includes vibration intensity and pattern and where the vibration control setting receives setting from a user, as taught by Braun, because it would enable the user to customize the effect of the force feedback to his/her preference.

Claim 2 and 9 and 18: The Nishimura reference fails to provide a teaching of wherein the vibration condition setting performs condition setting processing to display a vibration condition setting image on a display and receive vibration condition setting by an operation input from the operation section for vibration condition to store in a storage section. However, the Braun reference provides a teaching of a teaching of wherein the vibration condition setting performs condition setting processing to display a vibration condition setting image on a display and receive vibration condition setting by an operation input from the operation section for vibration condition to store in a storage section (see FIG. 5 and col. 17:30-50 and 20:15-27). Therefore, it would have been obvious to include the feature of the vibration condition setting performs condition setting processing to display a vibration condition setting image on a display and receive vibration condition setting by an operation input from the operation section

Art Unit: 3715

for vibration condition to store in a storage section, as taught by Braun, because it would enable the user to customize the effect of the force feedback to his/her preference.

Claim 3-4 and 10-11: The Nishimura reference fails to provide a teaching of wherein a plurality of the vibration occurrence simulation states simultaneously as condition that causes the vibration mechanism to vibrate, the vibration control section synthesizes a plurality of vibration content that has been set by the vibration content section and control the vibration mechanism [claim 3-4] and a teaching of synthesizing a plurality of vibration content and controlling the vibration when a plurality of simulation states occur simultaneously as the condition that cause the vibration mechanism to vibrate, at the time of driving the vibration mechanism on the condition that the vibration occurrence simulation state has occurred. However, the Braun reference provides a teaching of wherein a plurality of the vibration occurrence simulation states simultaneously as condition that causes the vibration mechanism to vibrate, the vibration control section synthesizes a plurality of vibration content that has been set by the vibration content section and control the vibration mechanism (see col. 17:50-62) and a teaching of synthesizing a plurality of vibration content and controlling the vibration when a plurality of simulation states occur simultaneously as the condition that cause the vibration mechanism to vibrate, at the time of driving the vibration mechanism on the condition that the vibration occurrence simulation state has occurred (see col. 17:50-62). Therefore, it would have been obvious to include the feature of wherein a plurality of the vibration occurrence simulation states simultaneously as condition that causes the vibration mechanism to vibrate, the vibration control section synthesizes a plurality of vibration content that has been set by the vibration content section and control the vibration mechanism as taught by Braun, because it would enable the user to be imparted with a more realistic force simulation (see col. 6:60-65).

Claim 19-20 and 21-22: The Nishimura reference does not provide a teaching of having a vibration condition setting that includes vibration intensity and pattern and where the

Art Unit: 3715

vibration control setting receives setting from a user. However, the Braun reference provides a teaching of having a vibration condition setting that includes vibration intensity and pattern (see FIG 5 and col. 17:30-50) and where the vibration control setting receives setting from a user (see col. 17:30-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to include the feature of having a vibration condition setting that includes vibration intensity and pattern and where the vibration control setting receives setting from a user, as taught by Braun, because it would enable the user to customize the effect of the force feedback to his/her preference.

5. Claim 5-7 and 12-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura et al US 6,752,716 and in view of Braun 6,300,936 and further in view of Braun 6,262,583

Claim 5-7 and 12-14: The combination of Nishimura and Braun fail to provide a teaching of a plurality of the vibration occurrence states occur simultaneously that cause the vibration mechanism to vibrate, the vibration mechanism control section control the vibration mechanism in accordance with degrees of priority assigned to the simulation states.

However, Braun '583 provides a teaching when a plurality of the vibration occurrence states occur simultaneously that cause the vibration mechanism to vibrate, the vibration mechanism control section control the vibration mechanism in accordance with degrees of priority assigned to the simulation states (see Braun '583 col. 26:22-39, col. 27:34-51 and col.26:65-27-22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skilled in the art to include the feature of the vibration mechanism control section control the vibration mechanism in accordance with degrees of priority assigned to the simulation states, as taught by Braun 583, because it would enable the simulator to correctly provide force effect to the user (see Braun 583 27: 15-22).

Art Unit: 3715

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-14 and 17-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT J. UTAMA whose telephone number is (571)272-1676. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571)272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3715

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. J. U./
Examiner, Art Unit 3715

/XUAN M. THAI/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3715